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MOVING EXPENSES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press has now reported that the Federal Government has paid out over \$100,000 each in moving expenses to hundreds of Federal employees.

Investigators found 388 moves that cost taxpayers over \$100,000 each. One FBI employee got \$203,000, and three IRS workers got over \$190,000 each for their moves. In addition to these hundreds of moves that have already been paid for, 81 other Federal employees have been authorized to receive over \$100,000 each for their moves.

Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. It is excessive. It is a rip-off of the taxpayers, and Congress should stop it. Federal employment used to be called government service. However, it is anything but public service when employees seem to care less and less about what a move costs as long as it does not come out of their own pockets.

CONGRESSIONAL BICYCLE CAUCUS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that as we are dealing with some weighty matters here before us that we also may be able to pause for a moment and deal with one simple little item that can help bring us together. We are in the midst now of encouraging Members to renew their membership in the bipartisan Bicycle Caucus.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and I have issued a letter that is circulating to the Members. Last year, we had over a hundred Members, representing 37 States, that worked to help promote cycling policies around the country, to do work here in Washington, D.C., to promote that opportunity to make the cycling-friendly environment and to have some positive experiences for Members, family, and staff using cycles here.

Next week, there will be a bicycle summit with participation from virtually every State in the Union, over 500 people. We encourage Members to renew their membership. They will get the certified bicycle membership pen, and we will have an opportunity to work together on something that we will enjoy that will be good for the environment, good for health, and good for our country.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues and the American people for supporting our men and women who have volunteered to stand in harm's way. While no one desires to go to war, the threat to America posed by Iraq and international terrorism is real, and many of those in the Armed Forces may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I am especially appreciative of our servicemembers because I recently served on a delegation led by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to visit the courageous troops in Kuwait, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Already nearly 170,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves have been called up for deployment. These brave people have volunteered to leave their jobs and families to help secure our liberty.

Many of our military families struggle to make ends meet, and I ask Americans to reach out to them. Every helping hand is greatly appreciated, even if just a word of encouragement. I ask everyone across this great land to support our troops by assisting their families while they are defending freedom.

DIVIDEND TAX CUT

(Mr. BEAUPREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, in coming days and weeks, this body will take up issues of economic growth and taxation fairness. The President has suggested the elimination of the tax on dividends, a tax paid of course by investors, half of which I am told are senior citizens, treated as ordinary income.

This tax is rightly referred to as a double tax because companies that pay dividends have already been subjected to a corporate income tax. Thus 60 percent or more of every dollar of business profit, when taxed both at the corporate and personal level, could end up in the Federal tax bucket.

This seems excessive. It seems unfair. It seems a penalty on success. This is clearly a disincentive to capital investment which is critical, of course, to job creation; capital investment, which declined for eight consecutive quarters of our battered economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain every Member of this body is committed to more job availability for Americans, especially now. Elimination of the dividend tax would be an incentive for capital investment which is necessary for job creation.

Let us do American workers a favor and eliminate the dividend tax now.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's jobs and economic growth package because of the immediate benefits that it will provide for our small business owners.

Under current law, businesses can only deduct a fraction of new investment expenses and are forced to wait years to deduct the full cost. The President's jobs and economic growth package will help reduce this anti-investment bias by immediately increasing the amount of investment that can be deducted from \$25,000 to \$75,000 per year. Increasing by 300 percent the amount that small businesses can invest in their company will have an immediate and positive impact on our Nation's economy. This package is projected to return an average of \$2,042 to over 23 million small business owners this year.

This legislation will help increase the bottom line, and I hope my colleagues will support it when it comes before the House.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVES

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation mobilizes in every way, and most especially our military, to confront the war on terror, as our soldiers in numbers exceeding 150,000 prepare in a theater overseas for possible confrontation, a brief word about the citizen-soldier and their role, National Guardsmen and Reserves in this effort, fully 60,000 of which have not only been activated but deployed to that theater overseas.

This week, the historic base, Camp Atterbury in my own district, became the very first State-owned National Guard facility to be activated as a mobilization site in the war on terror. My congratulations to Governor Frank O'Bannon and the Indiana Army National Guard and the 38th Division for their stewardship of this facility, and it is all of our hope and prayer that the men who pass through that place through mobilization go with God and go prepared and come home to their families and their grateful communities soon.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ECONOMIC PLAN

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that the best thing that the government can do to stimulate the economy is get out of the way, and I agree completely. President Bush's economic growth and jobs creation plan is a perfect blueprint for